



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

VI.—CASIMIR DELAVIGNE *INTIME*

FROM UNPUBLISHED LETTERS FROM HIS FATHER AND OTHER
RELATIVES IN FRANCE TO HIS UNCLE IN LOUISIANA

The French critics of our day judge the work of Casimir Delavigne with a severity which I consider unjust. His *Messéniennes*, of which the first three were published in 1818, made the hearts of his contemporaries thrill with patriotic enthusiasm, and his *Parisienne*, music by Auber, written during the Revolution of 1830, was, for a time, as popular as the *Marseillaise*. One will always read with pleasure his fourth and his fifth *Messénienne*, *Vie de Jeanne d'Arc*, and *Mort de Jeanne d'Arc*, and the second of his *Nouvelles Messéniennes*, *Trois Jours de Christophe Colomb*.

As a dramatic writer Casimir Delavigne had, in his life time, the greatest success. He was a classicist, but he endeavored, in some of his plays, to combine the ideas of the Romantic school with those of the Classical. His drama, *Louis XI* (1832), is still played in France, and, translated into English, has been very popular in the United States. His comedy, *l'Ecole des Vieillards* (1823), is particularly interesting, because it does not render ridiculous the love of an old man for a young woman. In this, Delavigne displays some originality and abandons the tradition of French literature, which, until then, had been merciless in its treatment of old men in love, as we see so well in Molière and in Beaumarchais. *La Popularité* (1838) is, perhaps, the third in merit of Delavigne's plays, and is an interesting study in politics, in which the poet gives a beautiful lesson of patriotism.

Casimir Delavigne was born at Havre, on April 4, 1793, and died at Lyons, on December 11, 1843. He was elected a member of the French Academy in 1825, after two unsuccessful attempts. The first time the bishop of Hermopolis was preferred to him, and the second time, the archbishop of Paris, and Delavigne said: "You will see that at my third attempt the pope will be opposed to me." Great honors were conferred upon the poet during his life, and still greater honors were done to his memory. At his funeral, Victor Hugo delivered an oration, and he and Sainte-Beuve delivered a eulogy on Delavigne at the French Academy, when the great critic succeeded the author of *Louis XI* among the "Immortals." Delavigne, however, very curiously, had always refused to vote for Hugo as a member of the Academy, offering his vote in preference to Alexandre Dumas, *père*. Louis-Philippe ordered his bust and his portrait to be placed at the Versailles Museum; his bust was placed at the Théâtre Français and in one of the courts of honor of the "Collège Henri IV," formerly "Collège Napoléon" in Paris, where he had been a pupil. His native city of Havre erected his statue in front of the Museum, and gave his name to the quay where he was born. He was buried at the beautiful and historic cemetery of Père Lachaise, and his monument consists of a tragic muse, holding a crown of immortelles with one hand and a lyre with the other.

In my opinion, Casimir Delavigne deserves to occupy an honorable rank in the history of French literature; and it is interesting to hear what members of his family said of him and of his work. Jean François Casimir Guillaume, a brother of his father, emigrated to America and established a school for girls in St. James Parish, Louisiana. My mother was one of his pupils, and I had

the pleasure of knowing his son Jean Casimir, a cultivated old gentleman whose descendants live in New Orleans at present. One of Jean Casimir's daughters, Miss Emilie Delavigne, a teacher in the New Orleans public schools, has kindly placed at my disposal the letters written to her grandfather by his relatives in France and relating to the poet and dramatist Casimir, and to his brother Germain, who was a writer of some merit and well known as the author of the librettos of the great operas, *La Muette de Portici*, *Robert le Diable* and *Charles VI*, the latter in collaboration with Casimir.

Casimir Delavigne was not only a praiseworthy poet and dramatist, but he was also a patriot and a man of a charming disposition, who was greatly loved by all who knew him. He had near Paris a delightful country seat, "La Madeleine," from which were dated several of the letters of which we give extracts. Delavigne sold "La Madeleine" after the death of his father and of his aunt Mrs. Aupoix, that he might attend to the education of his son in Paris. His health had always been delicate, and in 1843, in search of a warmer climate, he started with his wife for Montpellier. Arrived at Lyons, he felt so ill that he had to stop, and he died on December 11, 1843. "One hour before his death," says his biographer, his brother Germain, "he had *Guy Mannering* read to him, and his wife having passed over two or three lines, he asked her to begin again, calling her attention gently to the fact that she had made a mistake. A few minutes later, on December 11, at nine o'clock in the evening, he seemed to cease listening to the reading, and placing his head on his hand, he murmured a few verses in a low voice; then letting his head fall gently on the pillow, he appeared to go to sleep; but he was never to wake up."

The following letters throw interesting light on the personal relations of this estimable man.

No. 1. Widow Aupoix to her brother Jean François Casimir Guillaume in Louisiana.

La Madeleine, April 9, 1829.

The authors, Germain and Casimir, are working; but they have given nothing this winter. It is a real harm done our brother who is the minister of finance of the family. Casimir has written a tragedy, which will be played only in the beginning of the winter. Germain is finishing a grand opera in five acts, but I am not well informed about all that is taking place, on account of my stay in the country. I send you herewith a short extract¹ from a newspaper of Paris. My brother told me that the Tacitus was very beautiful. The library of your nephew is considerable; it increases every day with all the gifts that Casimir receives. This library is at La Madeleine. Every spring all the books received in the winter are brought here. This is what keeps me company when I am here. Unfortunately I have very poor eyes.

No. 2. Louis Auguste Anselme to his brother in Louisiana.

La Madeleine, June 22, 1829.

Soon, my friend, I shall send you the copy of a new tragedy of Casimir, represented for the first time at the

¹ *News of the Theatres.*—The representation of *la Muette de Portici*, which took place at the Court Theatre last Tuesday, produced the greatest effect on the august assembly. The King, as a mark of the satisfaction which he had felt, sent to Messrs. Scribe and Germain Delavigne a magnificent copy of the works of Tacitus, and to Mr. Auber a bronze statue of Henry IV when a child, according to Bosio.

“Théâtre de la Porte St. Martin, formerly “Théâtre de l’Opéra,” where we used to hear our old schoolmate Chéron. My son’s tragedy had been read, however, at the “Français,” accepted unanimously and enthusiastically; but when the parts were to be assigned to the actors, three of the principal ones pretended that the part of the doge Faliero belonged to them. Hence the impossibility of distributing the parts, as, besides, not one of the three was entitled to the part. My son thought that he should wait, and that, in time, each one would understand what he could do. Things had been in that condition for several months when the Director of “la Porte St. Martin” came to propose to Casimir to have the play acted in his newly renovated theatre, saying that, if he consented, he would find, in a few days, the necessary actors. My son accepted the proposition, and his tragedy, represented on a stage where ordinarily only melodramas are played, had the greatest success in the presence of the finest audience in Paris. In short, my son has obtained a triumph—loudly acclaimed by all the spectators, he resisted the invitation and did not appear, but the public awarded him a crown which was brought to his house at about midnight. Since then this play has been represented every day with the same success, in spite of the heat.

Germain had several plays represented at the “Gymnase” last winter. His comic opera, *Robert le Diable* has not been played, on account of the bad health of the musician who was at Berlin, but he will arrive at Paris in July, and the play will be represented next autumn at the “Opéra Comique.” He will have a grand opera played next winter, and he has two others in preparation. *La Muette de Portici*, grand opera, which already has had seventy representations, obtains every day the same success

as at the first representation. During the last carnival the King had that opera played at the court, and he was so delighted with it that he ordered the Minister of the Interior to manifest his satisfaction to my son and to send him a magnificent edition of Tacitus in four volumes, large quarto, vellum paper.

No. 3. Louis Delavigne to his brother in Louisiana.

Paris, February 8, 1830.

We have heard with great satisfaction and astonishment at the same time that the American journalists have published in their papers the entire tragedy *Marino Faliero* of my son Casimir. He was himself greatly astonished and pleased. I thank you for having given me the news which has flattered us singularly.

No. 4. Louis Delavigne to his brother in Louisiana.

May 12, 1830.

Next August *Robert le Diable*, a poem by Germain and Scribe, will be rehearsed. The play was written long ago for "l'Opéra Comique," but the destination had to be changed, because at that theatre there are neither singers nor musicians capable, the first to sing and the second to play the music which is by Mr. Meyer Beer, a Prussian, a famous composer.

Germain has two grand operas ready, of which the music of the first is by Rossini, the second, by Auber. Casimir, at the end of the autumn, will have a tragedy represented, of which the title is *Louis XI*.

The three following letters give an interesting account of the Revolution of July, 1830.

No. 5. Alphonse Delavigne to his father in St. James
Parish, Louisiana.

Paris, August 8, 1830.

The memorable events which took place in Paris on the 27th, 28th, and 29th July will probably have reached you before my letter. However, fearing that you may not have heard them, I shall give you some details of them. Charles X, influenced, without doubt, by the Jesuits and badly advised by his infamous ministers, thought that he could make a "coup d'état" without fear. Indeed he attempted it. On the 26th of last month he violated the laws by dissolving the Chamber of Deputies; then he issued an ordinance by which he abolished the liberty of the press. This new act of despotism made every one indignant, and the very next day there were riotous meetings in the streets of Paris. All were firmly decided to take up arms and to defend liberty to the last drop of their blood. On the 27th the people revolted. All the officers commanding the gendarmerie, the Royal Guard, and other troops in Paris deploy their forces on the Boulevards and other places. Instantly everybody runs to arms and attacks the King's troops. Those who have no arms brave the grape shot and the cannon balls in order to obtain arms. Soon all Paris is in arms, and several regiments refuse to fire on the people. On every side there are a terrible fusillade and cannonade. Oh! what an awful sight to see flowing the blood of one's countrymen! And by whom is that blood shed? Perhaps by brothers or other relatives. Should not a King be seized with horror in thus having his people massacred? But God, always just, makes the Parisians triumph. They succeed by their courage in repulsing the troops, which

retire with great loss. Thus were ended a fearful carnage and three immortal days, during which the Parisians reconquered the liberty, the happiness, and the peace, which the Parisians are to enjoy under their new King, Louis-Philippe I^{er}, Duke of Orleans, who has just been proclaimed King of the French by the Chamber of Deputies and the House of Peers. You see that only three times twenty-four hours were necessary to dethrone Charles X, who was really not worthy to govern such an admirable people as the French.

What is most extraordinary and beautiful is the fact that the victory has been soiled by no excess. Never have people been wiser or more moderate than the Parisians. A striking example of the noble feelings of the French is that, while dismissing their King, they have given him an annual pension of ¹ four million francs, which he will probably go to enjoy in the United States. I shall not undertake to mention all the deeds of heroism, for there would be enough to fill a folio volume. The admirable and adorable Lafayette, to whom the Americans are so much indebted, has greatly contributed to free the French.

No. 6. L. Delavigne to his brother in Louisiana.

Paris, August 8, 1830.

My good friend, I shall add but one word to the letter of Alphonse, of whom I am well pleased, who succeeds very well in his studies, and whom I love as my son. He gives you a very succinct narrative of the great events

¹ This statement is incorrect. Charles X received no money from his former subjects, and, in fact, left France with great dignity in spite of the contrary assertions of his contemporaries. (*Translator.*)

which have just taken place on the days of the 27th, 28th, and 29th July. As the longest letter would be insufficient to give you an exact and detailed account, I have requested my sister Aupoix, who is at La Madeleine, to send you the numbers of the newspaper, *le Constitutionnel*, from the time the movements began. You will read them with the greatest pleasure, because you have a French heart, and then you will be informed in regard to all events.

At last, my friend, we have reconquered liberty, and we shall always enjoy it. The tricolored banner floats generally over France on all public monuments. The Duke of Orleans has been named King of the French, and the choice made of that prince has met with universal approval. Under his government, which will be truly paternal, we shall really enjoy happiness, and commerce and industry will take a new flight.

I shall send you by Mr. Paul the books which you have asked of me. I shall add to them a drawing representing a view of La Madeleine, and a medal which has just been struck to be sold for the widows and orphans and the wounded. On one side are engraved four verses of Casimir's; on the other are represented Liberty and France, and between them a monument. Liberty asks France the names of those who died fighting, and France answers her:

“*France.* Dis-moi leurs noms, je n'en vois point paraître
Sur ce funèbre monument?
Ils ont vaincu si promptement
Que j'étais libre avant de les connaître.”

I shall send you also the words and the music of the *Parisian March* which has been sung at all the theatres of Paris and has been received and applauded generally by

the public. The words are by Casimir and the music arranged by Mr. Auber. Casimir is writing at present a *Messénienne* concerning the events which have just taken place. It will soon appear.

No. 7. Widow Aupoix to her brother in Louisiana.

La Madeleine, August, 1830.

I returned here on July 11, and my sister-in-law and her children on the 23d. From that day to the 26th there is no great interval, and yet that was sufficient to cause Charles X to do many foolish deeds. On the 26th he published ordinances which exasperated the people so greatly that, from the evening of the 26th, there was a revolt. The King ordered the generals to march troops upon Paris. The *Gardes du Corps*, and the *Gendarmerie* which replaces to-day the *maréchaussée* and at Paris the night patrol, some regiments of the Royal Guards, and the Swiss fired on the Parisians who defended themselves with such heroism that, in three days, the Government was overthrown. The King and his family escaped to Rambouillet. The Chambers were to assemble on August 3d, and for that reason there were many deputies in Paris. M. de Lafayette came from his country seat and put himself at the head of the National Guards. Retired generals came forward, who had not forgotten how to fight and who, besides, were well known to the troops. The regiments of the line refused to fire on the people, and the defection was complete. On the 30th Paris was as calm as if nothing had happened.

However, there was such severe fighting that the City Hall was taken and retaken five times, and the *Tuileries*, three times. There was such order that not a theft was

committed. There were many people killed and wounded. There was such generosity that all the houses were opened to the wounded; enemies, as well as friends, were attended to with the same solicitude by the physicians and the surgeons. The druggists, the women, made lint and carried those who were wounded. I do not believe, my friend, that modern history or ancient history offer examples of the incredible things which took place in Paris in a week.

The Duke of Orleans had remained at Neuilly. He came several times to try to calm the people; but, after the fight, on the 29th or the 30th he was named Lieutenant General of the Kingdom. He accepted on the 31st. The tricolored flag was floating over all the monuments. The deputies and the Lieutenant General attended immediately to restoring order in the government. During that time what was Charles X doing at Rambouillet? He was weeping and probably regretting his blindness, but it was too late; all France was in arms and was flying to the help of Paris; and with such order that all the National Guards paid their own expenses in the cities through which they passed. In the first days of August the deputies named the Duke of Orleans King, under a charter remodelled by the Chamber. The former King did not wish to leave Rambouillet, but the committee, which went to invite him to leave France, made him feel the necessity of not resisting, saying that it was impossible that he could defend himself, and that they would not answer for his life if he did not leave France. He finally yielded, and he is on his way towards Cherbourg, where he will embark, it is said, for the United States. He feels on his journey the sorrow of hearing how much he is execrated.

My brother remained at his house and kept your son Alphonse by him, but Fortuné, Désiles, and a brother of

Mrs. Delavigne took part in the fight. In the evening of the 28th Germain, Casimir, their mother, and their sister went to Paris. I remained here alone in great anxiety, because there were no news. The stage coaches, the couriers, all had stopped. At last every one reached his destination without any accident. Mrs. Delavigne was obliged to go on foot from the gate of Paris to her house. The carriages could not circulate in Paris, of which all the streets had been unpaved and barricaded. Many soldiers were killed by the stones of the pavement, which were thrown from the third story. The women were of great use in that kind of defense.

The newspapers are very interesting; I shall send you some of those which relate all the events which have just taken place. I shall send you also some older ones which speak of Casimir. He has read your letter addressed to my brother and he finds that your judgment on *Marino Faliero* is the same as his. The health of that good young man is not good. He works very much, and he is fatigued. I am sure that he is delighted with the laws relating to the press. He shall not fear any more the scissors of Messrs. the Censors.

No. 8. Louis Delavigne to his brother.

Paris, September 24, 1830.

I wrote you a few words, my dear friend, on August 8, solely to reassure you about us after the memorable days of July 27, 28, and 29, from which have resulted the fall of Charles X, of his son, and of his grandson, and the appointment of the Duke of Orleans as King of the French. France gains immensely by this change, because the Prince is an honorable man, very enlightened and very laborious. As for him, in accepting the crown he has

sacrificed his repose to the general happiness. Indeed he was very happy as Duke of Orleans. He enjoyed with simple tastes a very considerable fortune, and truly he had nothing to desire, but in the situation of things he could not refuse the throne which had been offered him, since by occupying it he assured the peace of France and protected it from anarchy, the worst of all evils. He will truly be a Citizen King who will govern the interests of the State with the same attention that he gave to the administration of his private fortune. One is then justified in conceiving the greatest hope of happiness under his government. I assure you that I consider myself happy to have lived long enough to have seen such a revolution.

From these changes there may result great advantages for my children, because they are liked by the King, the Queen, and all the royal family. I believe that they are not without hope of advancement, especially Germain, who works every day in the cabinet of the King. As for Casimir, he asks for nothing, in order not to be distracted from the works which entirely engross his attention; only he is, as his brother, invited from time to time to dine with the royal family. If an opportunity occurred to obtain for you an advantageous position, you know that I should seize it with eagerness, because my children and myself are truly devoted to you.

In accordance with your desire I shall add to the package announced in my letter of August 8 a copy of *Marino Faliero*, of *la Princesse Aurélie*, and the poem recited at the theatre of Rouen for the inauguration of the monument to be erected to the memory of the Great Corneille. The ode which you mention is, I suppose, the *Consular March*. I do not think that it has been printed. I shall procure it for you.

No. 9. L. Delavigne to his brother.

Paris, March 11, 1832.

The grand opera, *Robert le Diable*, of Germain was represented for the first time on October 21. It obtained a complete success, and it is still the same, all the boxes hired in advance, finally always a full house.

On February 9 *Louis XI* was represented for the first time at the Théâtre Français. This very remarkable work has obtained the greatest success since. It was played seventeen times up to the eighth of this month. The public attends in such large numbers that the orchestra of the musicians is always invaded by the spectators. Everybody admires this beautiful tragedy, which you will surely have great pleasure in reading.

No. 10. L. Delavigne to his brother.

July 1833.

As for Casimir, you will know that he had a tragedy in three acts represented at the Théâtre Français, on the 18th of last May, having for title *les Enfants d'Edouard*. This tragedy has had the greatest success, and from May 18 to July 8 it has been played twenty-one times. At that time the actors obtained leaves of absence to go to play in the provinces. On their return, which will be in the middle of September, the tragedy will be acted again. You will be able to judge the work, of which I shall send you a copy by Alphonse, with a medal in plaster representing Casimir, by our first sculptor, the famous David, also a very beautiful lithograph of Casimir.

In regard to the success of *les Enfants d'Edouard*, I send you a copy of a letter filled with kindness from

our excellent King, dated Neuilly, Saturday, May 18, midnight, which you will be glad to know:

"I hear with great pleasure, my dear Casimir, of the success of your play, and I do not wish to go to bed without having paid you my compliments. You know how I have always been pleased with the success that you have so often obtained, but I am doubly pleased at this one, and I congratulate you with all my heart; it will procure a good night to you and to me also. Good morning."

I am very glad that the box which I sent you some time ago has reached you. It contained with a few books a copy of *Louis XI* and a small bust of my son Casimir. I appreciate very much what you say of both, and particularly of the works of the author. On that subject you are of the opinion of various enlightened writers and excellent judges with whom I am very much flattered to see that you agree. You value perhaps too highly the bust, which does not come from the studio of our celebrated David, but I am sure that you will be pleased with the medal in which Casimir is represented in profile by that great sculptor. It is a very good likeness. I have added to it a copy of *les Enfants d'Edouard*, and Alphonse has a beautiful lithograph of Casimir.

It is Alphonse who will hand to you those different articles. You may assuredly keep all the works of my son which you have already, but I advise you that you will receive within a year the complete collection of his works, including the last tragedy, and that the edition will be very beautiful, with handsome *in-octavo* paper with engravings, and finally the magnificent lithograph. I know that our author is engaged at present writing a comedy in the country where he is with us. I do not yet know the title, but that will come.

Germain and Casimir, who have read your letter, have found surprising the criticism which you made of *Marino Faliero*. What has astonished them the most is, that having read the play only in parts every week, you should have been able to understand the whole so well and with such sagacity. Your nephew has been proud of your judgment in regard to his work and of the developments of his idea into which you entered.

The ceremonies which I have not yet explained will be confirmed by the weddings, in our chapel at La Madeleine, of my sons Germain and Casimir, who will be married at the same mass. The former marries Mlle. Letourneur, an orphan, having lost her father, of whom she is the only heiress, about six months ago. She possesses the best qualities and is of a very sweet disposition. She possesses, besides, an immense and rare talent as a pianist, which may cause her to be considered the first musician in Paris. She is small but shapely; her face is expressive of wit, and without being very pretty, she is very agreeable. Her dowry will be of about 200,000 francs, not including very handsome furniture.

Casimir marries Mme. la Comtesse de Courtin, a most interesting woman, tall, well made and pretty. She is also endowed with the best qualities, with an exquisite sweetness, and a very loving disposition, drawing very well (the sketch of La Madeleine which I send you is by her), and willingly renouncing nobility to marry a plebeian whom she loves and esteems. As for her fortune, it is not as large as that of Mlle. Letourneur, but that is no matter for Casimir. Because of my speaking to you of Mme. la Comtesse, you might think that my son is marrying a widow. Such is not the case. She is called *Madame*, because she is canoness of the royal chapter of St. Anne

of Bavaria. A very extraordinary thing is that the two households, with which our house will be increased, will bring no change to our existence. We shall all live together, and our house will be a small republic, where each one will do his best for the general happiness. You will share, without doubt, my friend, as well as your wife and your children, all the joy which my wife and I feel at these two marriages. As for us, it will be very sweet to us to see all our children established happily and to be able to hope that we shall be at the head of a numerous and interesting family, which will help us to bear old age, if we have the happiness that our lives may be prolonged.

No. 11. Widow Aupoix to her brother.

October 20, 1835.

The play of Casimir, *Don Juan d'Autriche*, was represented on Saturday, October 17. It was a prodigious success. I received the news yesterday by Désiles and Mme. Fortuné who wrote me, both of them. This is what Désiles writes me:

“ My dear Aunt:

There was merry-making in the Rué Bergère until four o'clock in the morning to ‘ champagne ’ the immense, admirable success. We are jubilant. There has never been such laughter and such applause.”

No. 12. Widow Aupoix to her brother.

October, 1835.

Why do not your steamboats arrive as far as La Madeleine? If they were only a week on the way I might run the risk of going to make a visit to the Opelousas and

to New Orleans in order to know all the family. All that I say in the dreams I have, while knitting in my long winter evenings which have begun sooner than usually, first, on account of *Don Juan*, which is to be represented this month, and on account of the students who were to return on October 6 to their college and who by favor returned only on the 7th.

I am delighted to hear that you have enough books to occupy your moments of leisure. It is a great resource for you who, surely, are not much amused with these new novels with which we are flooded in France, together with the melodramas of the *Romantiques*. It is indeed the most pitiful thing that may be imagined.

No. 13. Widow Aupoix to her brother.

La Madeleine, July 15, 1837.

Mme. Delavigne's health is not bad, except that she is obliged to have herself bled from time to time. She is agile for her age, courageous and never despairing at anything. She is often a nurse; her poet being very delicate, the good care of his mother is always very useful to him, and he has recourse to it often. This health so delicate is the cause of his not working as much as he would like. He is occupied at present with a comedy of which two acts are already done. He has told us some scenes of it, and his sister, who is quite a competent judge, has told me that it was very well. The work is in verse.

Germain is still in Paris, not being able to come here except on leave of absence. He has much occupation this year on account of all the embellishments made at Versailles, and of the festivals, for the inauguration of the

palace and for the marriage of the Duke of Orleans. The galleries where are assembled all the pictures and works of art are two leagues in length.

In the play-house which is said to be magnificent the opera, *Robert le Diable*, was represented. The King, to reward one of the authors of the poem, has given to Germain a dessert set in porcelain of Sèvres, worth 1,500 francs. I do not know what he has given to Scribe and to the composer of the music.

No. 14. Widow Aupoix to her brother.

Paris, February 6, 1840.

To punish you for your laziness I ought not to tell you that your nephew Casimir completed at the end of the summer a tragedy of which the title is *la Fille du Cid*. This work is said to be the finest of all those that he has produced. The play is being rehearsed and will probably be represented in the month of March. We dare hope for success. The poor author works with such conscience to do well that it would be unfortunate for him not to obtain his reward by a great success.

ALCÉE FORTIER.